GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:730
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006
ISSUE OF COMPLEMENTARY PASSES BY IA/ AI
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) The criteria laid down by the Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) for issuing complimentary passes/tickets for travelling in India and abroad;

(b) The number of complimentary passes/tickets issued for the journey in India and aborad by the IA and AI separately during each of the last three years and current year category-wise; and

(c) The loss incurred on this account by these Airlines during the said period?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): As per the Industry practice, complimentary passages/tickets are issued by the Air India and Indian Airlines in their commercial interest to get direct publicity for various marketing initiatives/schemes, which helps in promoting new stations/destinations/routes as well as increasing revenue generation at no cost. These complimentary passages are being issued to tour promotors, travel writers, media personnel, important commercial contacts and prominent personalities to encourage and promote travel in its flights.

(b): The number of complimentary passes issued by Indian Airlines and Air India during the last three years and current year are as under:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Indian Airlines	678	505	506	204
Air India	1051	1150	2059	1873

(c): The benefit for issuing complimentary tickets is almost at no cost and these tickets are used only in the lean seasons when there is no displacement of revenue passages and against seats that would have otherwise gone empty. Hence, there is no financial outgo and it is at hardly any cost to the company.